(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) M/s VSNL has reported that it is difficult to estimate the loss. The Government takes suitable action including raids with the help of CBI/Police and also stepping up the surveillance and checks for stopping illegal routing of international traffic.

Teledensity

4993. DR. AKHILESH DAS :
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the teledensity for the urban and rural population in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise, indicating the teledensity growth during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to improve the telephone services in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) The teledensity for Urban and Rural population in the country is 15.16 and 1.49 respectively, as on March, 2003. The teledensity and its growth during the last three years State-wise and Union Territory-wise is given in the enclosed Statement (*see* below).

(b) Following steps are being taken in phased manner to improve the telephone services in rural areas :

(i) Conversion of small and medium exchanges into Remote Subscriber Units (RSUs)/upgradation in main exchanges.

(ii) Conversion of CDOT 256 Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAX) into V5.2 Access Network (AN RAXs).

(iii) All analogue exchanges have been replaced by digital exchanges in rural areas.

(iv) New exchanges are opened with reliable media like optical fibre.

(v) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems inducted into rural network.

(vi) Replacement of life expired telephone instruments in a phased manner.

Statement

State-wise Teledensity of Urban and Rural Areas for the last 3 years

Sl. No	State	Teledensity as on 31-3-2001			Teledensity as on 31-3-2002			Teledensity as on 31-3-2003		
		Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
A	B	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	13.10	6.18	8.44	13.57	6.97	9.13	14.98	7.71	9.60
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11.16	1.47	4.10	13.24	1.83	4.92	16.45	2.03	5.56
3.	Assam	8.70	0.25	1.33	10.46	0.39	1.68	11.54	0.50	1.94
4.	Bihar	8.63	0.27	1.15	7.25	0.38	1.10	9.30	0.48	1.32
5.	Chhattisgarh	#	#	#	5.14	0.28	1.26	5.55	0.40	1.39
6.	Delhi	18.55	0	18.55	15.25	0.00	15.25	30.18	0.00	26.85
7.	Gujarat	11.44	1.48	5.19	13.67	2.09	6.41	17.81	2.48	7.44
8.	Haryana	10.59	1.40	4.07	12.63	2.00	5.08	16.46	2.32	6.06
9.	Himachal Pradesh	26.06	3.76	5.94	29.99	5.05	7.49	39.63	5.43	8.40
10.	Jammu and Kahsmir	6.54	0.13	1.72	8.05	0.23	2.18	8.34	0.52	2.48
11.	Jharkhand	#	#	#	5.25	0.30	1.40	6.11	0.40	1.57
12.	Karnataka	10.33	1.79	4.69	12.29	2.13	5.58	15.84	2.37	6.45

13. Kerala	15.14	5.05	7.67	17.58	6.59	9.45	23.70	7.85	11.13
14. Madhya Pradesh	7.77	0.48	2.43	9.68	0.50	2.95	10.15	0.56	2.88
15. Maharashtra	13.03	1.33	6.30	15.00	1.87	7.45	19.27	2.16	8.99
16. North-East	13.57	1.04	3.86	15.08	1.47	4.53	9.17	0.88	2.70
17. Orissa	7.24	0.49	1.50	8.51	0.72	1.88	11.33	0.87	2.22
18. Punjab	14.15	2.70	6.82	18.24	4.10	9.18	25.66	4.60	11.60
19. Rajasthan	7.96	0.81	2.48	9.26	1.15	3.05	11.34	1.25	3.40
20. Tamil Nadu	12.82	0.49	7.64	11.65	0.46	5.40	15.20	2.12	7.82
21. Uttaranchal	#	#	#	10.99	1.13	3.65	12.57	1.30	3.95
22. Uttar Pradesh	13.24	0.48	2.52	14.09	0.55	2.72	8.82	0.56	2.13
23. West Bengal	8.23	0.51	2.29	9.58	0.75	2.76	11.53	0.89	3.72
TOTAL	10.37	0.90	3.64	12.03	1.21	4.22	15.16	1.49	5.00

NOTE :—1. #These States were formed in the year 2002.

2. North-East includes the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

3. Maharashtra includes the State of Goa.

4. West Bengal includes the State of Sikkim.

5. Gujarat includes the Union Territories of (i) Dadra and Nagar Haveli and (ii) Daman and Diu.

6. Kerala includes the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Island.

7. Punjab includes the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

8. Tamil Nadu includes the Union Territory of Pondicherry.